Dinocyst assemblage constraints on oceanographic and atmospheric processes in the Eastern Equatorial Atlantic over the last 44 ky

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ABSTRACT

A new 44 ky-long record of dinoflagellate (phytoplanktonic organisms) cysts (dinocysts) is presented from a marine sediment core collected on the Congolese margin with the aim to reconstruct past hydrological changes of the Equatorial Eastern Atlantic Ocean since Marine Isotopic Stage 3. Our high-resolution dinocyst record indicates that significant temperature and moisture variations occurred across the glacial period, the Last Deglaciation and the Holocene. The use of specific dinocyst taxa, indicative of fluvial, upwelling and Benguela Current past environments for instance, provides insights into the main forcing mechanisms controlling paleohydrological changes at orbital timescales. In particular, we are able, for the last 44 ky, to correlate fluvial-sensitive taxa to monsoonal mechanisms related to precession minima / obliquity maxima combinations. While upwelling mechanisms appear as the main drivers for dinoflagellate productivity during MIS 2, dissolved nutrient-enriched Congo River inputs to the ocean also played a significant role in promoting dinoflagellate productivity between approximately 15.5 and 5 ka BP. Finally, this high resolution dinocyst study permits to precisely investigate the sub-orbital timing of the last glacial-interglacial termination including an atypical warm and wet oceanic LGM signature, northern high latitude abrupt climate change impacts in the Equatorial Eastern Atlantic, as well as a two-steps decrease in moisture conditions during the Holocene at around 7-6 and 4-3.5 ka BP.

KEYWORDS: Dinoflagellate cysts; Congolese margin; Deglaciation; Holocene; Paleoproductivity; Monsoon dynamics
1. INTRODUCTION

Reconstructions of Late Quaternary and Holocene paleoceanographic changes at the Western African margin and associated Benguela upwelling system have identified orbital and sub-orbital controls on sea-surface and continental environmental conditions (Holzwarth et al., 2007). More specifically, several palynological studies carried out in the Equatorial Eastern Atlantic Ocean, combining analysis of pollen grains and cysts of dinoflagellates (dinocysts), have provided a wealth of information on land-sea interactions in the intertropical region, through investigation of sea-surface and terrestrial vegetation changes over the last climatic cycles (Shi et al., 1998; Marret and Zonneveld, 2003; Dupont and Behling, 2006; Marret et al., 2008; Kim et al., 2010; Bouimetarhan et al., 2012; Marret et al., 2013). However, these above-mentioned studies mainly focused on the comparison between periods of extreme climatic conditions, such as the Last Glacial Maximum (Mix et al., 2001) and the Holocene Climatic Optimum, showing that higher primary productivity conditions occurred during glacial periods in response to an increase of upwelling activity while enhanced freshwater discharges from the continent occurred during interglacials. In comparison, the Last Deglaciation period, which consisted in a shift from upwelled cold waters (associated with dry conditions on land - glacial) to monsoonal regimes (associated with warm waters offshore - interglacial), has been less studied and its timing in this area remains poorly defined, mainly due to a lack of high-resolution investigations.

In this study, we have investigated a marine sediment core (KZAI-01) recovered during the ZaiAngo I cruise (Savoye et al., 2000) at the West-African continental slope, upstream the Congo deep-sea fan. This core is characterized by a high average sedimentation rate (about 25 cm/ky, maximum of 50 cm/ky) that enables high-resolution paleoenvironmental records for the last 44 ky (Bayon et al., 2012). We combined here new dinocyst data with a set of already published geochemical data for sediment provenance and weathering proxies (Bayon et al.,
The comparison between terrestrial and marine proxy data can then be used to discuss about the links between environmental changes that have occurred in the Congo catchment area and past sea-surface oceanographic through dinoflagellate productivity variations. Several objectives have motivated this study:

1) To document the potential of dinocysts for reconstructing sea-surface environments in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and discussing about the links between continental and hydrological changes over the last 44 ky

2) To discuss orbital forcing impacts in our recorded dinocyst observations and the potential influence of the monsoonal activity on sea-surface past conditions

3) To precisely characterize, in the Equatorial Atlantic Ocean, the timing of the Last Deglaciation at a millennial time-scale resolution.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT ON THE CONGOLESE MARGIN

The Congo River drains the second largest catchment area of the world with a total surface of 3,600,000 km² and a mean flow of 41,000 m³/s. This river feeds the Congo deep-sea fan (Babonneau et al., 2002; Droz et al., 2003; Savoye et al., 2009; Picot et al., 2016), one of the largest deep-sea fans in the world, via a submarine Pliocene canyon (Anka et al., 2009) still active at present (Heezen and Hollister, 1964; Khripounoff et al., 2003).

2.1. Present-day atmospheric context

Climatic patterns in the Congo Basin are controlled by the seasonal latitudinal migration of the Tropical Rainbelt (TR, Figure 1), which is associated offshore with high sea-surface temperatures (SST) and low salinities (Zarriess and Mackensen, 2010; Arbuszewski et al., 2013). This low pressure belt is characterized by moist air ascension and large tropical rainstorms, generated by the association of the Tropical and African Easterly Jets in the
Northern Hemisphere (Nicholson, 2009). The TR and the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) constitute the complex convective system of the African monsoon system which shifts seasonally from a northward position during boreal summer to a southward position during boreal winter (Hsu and Wallace, 1976). While the central part of the Congo Basin is characterized by an equatorial regime, its northern and southern parts alternate between wet and dry seasons (Prance, 1984; Leroux, 2001). This results in a latitudinal distribution of the vegetation from rainforests to savannahs across the whole Basin (Prance, 1984). Easterly winds from the Indian Ocean also brings moisture to the Congo Basin, in particular during the austral summer, due to the presence of the Congo Air Boundary convergence zone (CAB, Tierney et al., 2011), also evidencing the influence of the eastern African monsoon system in central Africa.

2.2. Present-day oceanographic context

Surface water masses from the Congolese margin are largely influenced by the Angola Current (AC; Figure 1), a clockwise subequatorial gyre located above the north-eastern part of the Subtropical Gyre (Lass and Mohrholz, 2008). The warm waters of the AC meet the cool waters of the couple Benguela Current and Coastal Benguela Current (BC and cBC; Figure 1) at around 16°S at the Angola Benguela Front (ABF; Lass and Mohrholz, 2008). Cool surface currents cause weak evaporation and aridity conditions on the adjacent continent (Gordon et al., 1995), as well as water mass stratification on the continental shelf, itself depleted in oxygen (Gordon et al., 1995).

The South Atlantic Anticyclone, driving the Subtropical Gyre, generates SE trade winds on the SW African margin, and consequently upwelling cells throughout the BC (Gordon et al., 1995; Lass and Mohrholz, 2008). These upwelled waters bring deep nutrient-rich waters that promote high primary productivity in surface waters. The Benguela upwelling system is
limited northward around the ABF location (Jansen et al., 1996; Lass and Mohrholz, 2008).

Congo River freshwater discharges also exert an influence on the regional oceanographic setting, in particular because of the relative weakness of the Coriolis force near the equator that allows river plumes to extend far from the coast (da Cunha and Buitenhuis, 2013). This mechanism also contributes to enhanced fluvial upwelling and thus to additional nutrients exported to surface waters. Today, rainforests prevent active erosion of soils and therefore the delivery of substantial fluvial nutrient supplies to the Gulf of Guinea.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1. Stratigraphy of core KZAI-01

Core KZAI-01 (5°42.19’S; 11°14.01’E; 816 m water depth; 10.05 m length; Figure 1) was recovered during the 1998 ZaiAngo 1 cruise aboard the Atalante (Savoye, 1998). The first published age model of core KZAI-01 (Bayon et al., 2012) was derived from seven AMS $^{14}$C dates on carbonates (bulk planktonic foraminifera or mixed marine carbonates; Table 1), and two age constraints obtained by tuning core KZAI-01 to core GeoB6518-1 (well-dated sedimentary record from the nearby area; Figure 1) (Bayon et al., 2012).

In this study, three new AMS $^{14}$C dates on planktonic foraminifera and bivalves have been added between 370 and 620 cm (Table 1) in order to obtain a more robust stratigraphy for the Last Glacial period (Figure 2). We have also added three new age constraints by tuning core KZAI-01 to nearby well-dated core GeoB6518-1 (AMS $^{14}$C dates on monospecific foraminifera; Schefuß et al., 2005; Figure 2). This enables us to strengthen the chrono-stratigraphy of the study core for the Early Holocene as well as for the base of KZAI-01 core, not constrained by AMS $^{14}$C dates below 851 cm.

All radiocarbon dates were calibrated to calendar ages with the Calib 7.0 program (Stuiver and Reimer, 1993) associated with a 400 years correction for the marine age reservoir
(Reimer et al., 2013), and the final age model was built through linear regression between all stratigraphic pointers (Figure 2). Mean calculated sedimentation rates are around 25 cm/ky.

3.2. Palynological analysis

3.2.1. Laboratory procedure for dinocyst extraction

In this study, 203 samples were analysed for the period covering the last 44 ky with a 5 cm sampling interval (mean resolution analysis of about 200 years throughout the core, ranging between 20 and 800 years, according to the established age model). The preparation technique for palynological analysis followed the procedure described in Marret et al. (2008). Calibrated tablets of known concentrations of *Lycopodium clavatum* spores were added to each sample before chemical treatments in order to estimate palynomorph concentrations (number of dinocysts/cm$^3$ of dry sediments), and chemical and physical treatments included cold HCl (10%), cold HF (40%), and sieving through a single use 10 µm nylon mesh screen. The final residue was mounted between slide and coverslip with glycerine jelly coloured with fuschin. When the recommended number of 300 dinocysts could not be reached, a minimum of 100 specimens was counted on each sample (Fatela and Taborda, 2002), using a Leica DM 2500 microscope at ×630 magnification. Fifteen samples, containing less than 100 specimens, were excluded from dinocyst results. Dinocyst concentrations were based on the marker grain method (de Vernal et al., 1999) and dinocyst assemblages were described by the percentages of each species calculated on the basis of the total dinocyst sum including unidentified taxa and excluding pre-Quaternary specimens. In addition to dinocyst counts, freshwater microalgae *Pediastrum* and *Concentricystes* were also identified and counted so as to discuss river discharge intensifications in parallel with our dinocyst data.
3.2.2. Dinocysts as potential tracers for past primary productivity changes

Paleoproductivity regimes in the Equatorial Ocean could be inferred from our fossil assemblages thanks to the transfer function based on the Modern Analogue Technique (MAT; Guiot and de Vernal, 2007) developed for the Tropical Atlantic Ocean (n=208 modern analogues; Marret et al., 2008). A detailed discussion of limitations and pitfalls of inferring paleoproductivity from dinocyst assemblages in the study area will be discussed in a separate paper. In the present study, we only focus on the dinoflagellate phytoplanktonic component through past dinocyst specific observations. Indeed, among dinocyst assemblages, it is possible distinguishing between cysts formed by dinoflagellates with a strict nutritional strategy based on heterotrophy that we will refer as “heterotrophic cysts”, and other cysts formed by dinoflagellates for which the nutritional strategy can be complex involving either autotrophy, heterotrophy or mixotrophy and that we will refer as “non heterotrophic cysts”. Relative abundances of total heterotrophic cysts have previously been used as a signal for dinoflagellate primary productivity, and indirectly for marine productivity, considering that heterotrophic dinoflagellates mainly feed on marine micro-organisms including other dinoflagellates (whatever their nutritional strategies), diatoms and other micro-algae (e.g Zonneveld et al., 2013).

4. DINOCYST RESULTS ON CORE KZAI-01

4.1 Dinocyst concentrations

A total of 53 dinocyst taxa (Appendix) have been identified in the studied samples, with an average of 15 taxa for each sample (Figure 3). Dinocyst concentrations in sediments are generally very low, from 100 cysts/cm$^3$ to 12,000 cysts/cm$^3$ (Figure 3). These low concentrations in the study area are thought to be caused by a strong dilution of the organic matter by terrigenous inputs (cf. Figure 3) with a clear negative correlation between maximal
values of terrestrial inputs (Ti/Ca and minimal values of dinocyst concentrations), and also a probable competition with diatom productivity (Marret et al., 2008).

Higher cyst concentrations are recorded between 850 and 450 cm (37.5 - 15.5 ka BP; mean value of 3,000 cysts/cm$^3$), as well as between 90 and 30 cm (4 - 2.4 ka BP; mean value of 6,000 cysts/cm$^3$), for which two maxima are observed with 10,900 and 11,200 cysts/cm$^3$, respectively (Figure 3). Increases in dinocyst concentrations are due to increasing occurrences of *Operculodinium centrocarpum* or *Lingulodinium machaerophorum* (Figure 3). Heterotrophic cyst concentrations (mainly led by *Brigantedinium* spp. and *Echinidinium* species; Figure 3) as well as other cyst concentrations reach their maximal values during the same main interval, i.e between 850 and 450 cm, but are three times lower for heterotrophics (Figure 3). *Higher abundance of heterotrophic cysts*, mainly driven by *Brigantedinium* spp. percentages all along the record (Figure 3), as well as those of *Echinidinium* spp. between 450 and 90 cm (15.5 - 4 ka BP; Figures 3 and 5), are strongly correlated with lower dinocyst concentrations, especially between 15 and 4 ka BP (Figures 3 and 4). This could be consistent with the fact that diatoms as well as dinoflagellates are the main food for strictly heterotrophic dinoflagellates (Marret and Zonneveld, 2003), therefore echoing the previous idea of a competition between dinoflagellate and diatom phytoplanktonic productivity in the study area (Marret and Zonneveld, 2003).

Even if heterotrophic dinocyst concentrations can firstly be attributed to dilution/concentration processes in sediments, the transition between generally higher cyst concentrations and lower ones observed at 450 cm (15.5+/-0.4 ka BP) is synchronous with a marked shift in biogenic opal (BiSiO$_2$) and total organic carbon (TOC) observed in a nearby core (Schneider et al., 1997). This suggests different marine productivity patterns before and after 15.5+/-0.4 ka BP. Based at least on the fact that these data indicate generally similar trends, an atypical pattern is observed at 90 cm. While heterotrophic concentrations remain
low, and despite a relative stable trend characterized by still high terrigenous inputs (Bayon et al., 2012; Figure 3) as well as low BiSiO$_2$ and TOC values (Schneider et al., 1997), total dinocyst concentrations reach their maximum. To understand this atypical dinocyst concentration signal, indexes of specific diversity and dominance have been calculated to discuss periods possibly characterized by cyst advection (positive correlation between dominance and diversity) and in situ dinoflagellate productivity (negative correlation between dominance and diversity). Here, signals remain roughly anti-correlated all over the core, except at 90 cm (Figure 3), possibly due to a massive advection of *O. centrocarpum* at that time (Figure 3).

4.2 Dinocyst assemblages

Based on variations in cyst concentrations and in relative abundances of major species, five palynozones (A, B, C, D, E; Figure 3) have been visually established, then subdivided into several sub-palynozones (1, 2, 3; Figures 4 and 5) based on the rest of the assemblage (minor species always observed with at least >2%; Figures 4 and 5). Temporal successions between dinocyst species can be observed all along the core, in particular for the dinocyst group mainly controlled by sea-surface salinity (Marret and Zonneveld, 2003), including *Spiniferites ramosus*, *Nematosphaeropsis labyrinthus*, *L. machaerophorum*, *O. centrocarpum* and *Operculodinium israelianum* (Figures 3, 4), as well as *Echinidinium* spp. (Figure 5). The first important succession occurred at 37.5 +/- 0.7 ka BP (limit between palynozones E and D), with a significant drop of the maximal relative abundances of *S. ramosus* and *N. labyrinthus*, then followed by maximal relative abundances of *L. machaerophorum* (Figure 4). At 32 +/- 0.7 ka BP (limit between palynozones D and C), a second major transition is related to a strong decline of *L. machaerophorum* synchronously with maximal percentages of *O. centrocarpum*, and then accompanied by *O. israelianum*.
across the whole palynozone C (Figure 4). A third succession (limit between palynozone C and B) is then observed between *O. centrocarpum* and *Echinidinium* spp. (Figures 4 and 5) at 15.5 +/- 0.4 ka BP, while the last major transition (limit B-A) evidences the important decline of *Brigantedinium* spp. and strong re-increase of *O. centrocarpum* from 6 ka BP onwards, together with the significant occurrence of *Spiniferites pachydermus* near the start of palynozone A (a2, Figure 4).

Among the non-heterotrophics, the group of thermophile species comprises *Impagidinium aculeatum*, *Impagidinium patulum*, *Spiniferites bentorii*, *Tuberculodinium vancampoae*, *Spiniferites membranaceus* and *S. pachydermus*. This group also shows clear temporal successions across the different palynozones (cf. Figure 4), in particular *S. pachydermus* at the start of palynozone A (Figure 4). With regards to *Operculodinium aguinawense* (Figure 4), the southernmost occurrences ever recorded of this species is observed in core KZAI-01. This species only occurs today off the coasts of Cameroon and eastern Nigeria, in a small area encompassing GeoB4905 core (Figure 6; Marret and Kim, 2009). Over the last 15.5 +/- 0.4 ka, variations of *O. aguinawense* percentages are relatively well correlated with the ones of *Spiniferites mirabilis*, in particular across the Last Deglaciation. Today, both species are restricted to the same area along the north equatorial African coast (Figure 6; Zonneveld et al., 2013).

Among the heterotrophics, neritic taxa such as cysts of *P. schwartzii*, *Selenopemphix nephroides*, and especially *Xandarodinium xanthum* as well as *Quinquecuspis concreta* (Figure 5), show extremely close occurrences all along the core. This is especially obvious between 37 +/- 0.7 and 7 +/- 0.2 ka BP (Figure 5), and maximal percentages of these species are recorded around 36 - 32, 25 - 20 and 15.5 - 7 ka BP (Figure 5). Also, another important feature is the disappearance of cysts of *P. schwartzii* around 35 +/- 0.4 ka BP, synchronously with a significant increase of *S. nephroides* at that time (Figure 5; limit between sub-
5. DISCUSSION

5.1. Orbital control on past dinoflagellate productivity regimes

5.1.1. Dinoflagellate productivity on the Congolese margin: Congo River versus upwelling dynamics

Over the last glacial cycle, it is commonly accepted (Dupont et al., 1998; Shi et al., 1998; Dupont and Behling, 2006; Kim et al., 2010; Zonneveld et al., 2013) that in the intertropical band higher primary productivity occurred during periods of global cooling such as the LGM or Greenland Stadials (GS, including Heinrich Stadials or HS), in response to intensified upwelling cells. Inversely, during warmer and wetter periods such as Greenland Interstadials (GI) or the Holocene, characterized by higher riverine inputs, primary productivity is low.

Within our dinocyst record, higher dinoflagellate productivity seems to be recorded during the last glacial until 15.5 +/- 0.4 ka BP (high cyst concentrations), consistently with high values of BiSiO$_2$ and TOC observed in the neighbour core GeoB 1008 (Schneider et al., 1997; Figure 3). Furthermore, *Trinovantedinium applanatum*, a typical well-known coastal upwelling species (Marret and Zonneveld, 2003), mainly occurred between 28 +/- 0.6 and 19 +/- 0.3 ka BP (palynozones c3 to c2; Figures 5 and 7), consistently with the idea of stronger upwelling cells across glacial maxima, and more specifically here during MIS 2, in a dry context characterized by weak terrigenous supplies to the Congo margin, and cold sea-surface conditions (Figures 4 and 6).

At the onset of the Last Deglaciation, around 15.5 +/- 0.4 ka BP, a quasi-disappearance of the *T. applanatum* signal is observed (Figures 5 and 7). However, heterotrophic percentages remain high and are even characterized, between 15.5 +/- 0.4 and 7 +/- 0.2 ka BP (sub-palynozones b2 and b3), by the highest values ever recorded (Figures 5 and 7). This leads us
to consider, at that time, another major source of nutrients to the ocean than upwelling cells. The relatively good consistency between major element terrestrial signals (cf. XRF ratios in KZAI-01 core), percentages of heterotrophic (*Brigantedinium* spp.) as well as fluvial-sensitive cysts (*Echinidinium* spp., river-plume taxa) (Figures 5 and 7), suggests that nutrient-rich freshwater discharges from the Congo River probably acted as a major driving factor for promoting dinoflagellate productivity in the study area, especially across the Last Deglaciation, but also during MIS 3. Furthermore, between 15.5 +/- 0.4 and 7 +/- 0.2 ka BP, continental shelf reworking, induced by the post-glacial sea-level rise, may have also represented an additional source of nutrients to the ocean (Marret et al., 2008), also contributing to slightly enhanced dinoflagellate productivity at that time (Figures 5 and 7).

5.1.2 Precession versus Obliquity accounting for different fluvial regimes

The influence of orbital forcing on low latitude atmospheric processes is still a matter of debate. The tropical response to obliquity forcing appears to be the remote influence of high-latitude glacial ice-sheet oscillations (deMenocal et al., 1993), in parallel with significant changes in cross-equatorial insolation gradient (Bosmans et al., 2015). Precession forcing is more important in low latitude moisture changes, i.e warmer and wetter conditions in the hemisphere where summer solstice occurred at the Earth perihelion (Merlis et al., 2012). Furthermore, *it has been inferred* that the precession / obliquity combination has also a great influence on monsoon oscillations with a significant prevalence of the precession forcing (Tuenter et al., 2003). More precisely, minima of precession would correspond to an intensification of the monsoonal activity, and obliquity would tend to mitigate (minima of obliquity) or enhance (maxima of obliquity) the initial precession forcing (Tuenter et al., 2003). The orbital variations have therefore changed significantly the latitudinal spread of precipitations in consequence of oceanic heat gradient variations (Stager et al., 2011; McGee
In our dinocyst record, significant occurrences of fluvial-sensitive cysts (especially *L. machaerophorum* and *Echinidinium* spp.) appear to correspond to minima of precession, thus suggesting wetter conditions in the study area (Figure 7). This is especially observed during the Last Deglaciation - early Holocene between 15.5 +/- 0.4 and 4 +/- 0.15 ka BP (with the prevalence of *Echinidinium* spp.), as well as during the MIS 3 interval between 39 +/-0.9 and 32 +/-0.7 ka BP (with the prevalence of *L. machaerophorum*). Superimposed on this general pattern, a combination “minimum of precession - maximum of obliquity” would explain the optimal orbital combination for high moisture conditions according to Tuenter et al. (2003). This configuration indeed occurred between 16 and 6 ka BP in our dinocyst results and corresponds to the maximal recorded values of fluvial-sensitive cysts (*Echinidinium* spp.) in combination with the highest values of heterotrophic cyst percentages (mainly including *Brigantedinium* spp.) (Figure 7).

The minimum of precession recorded during MIS 3 (Figure 7) is characterized by a decreasing trend of Earth's obliquity, and is also consistently characterized by a weaker Ti/Ca ratio and associated lower surface productivities between 39 +/- 0.9 and 32 +/- 0.7 ka BP (Figure 7). Despite the austral location of KZAI-01 core, dinocyst assemblages indicate wetter conditions during precession minima (Figure 7), i.e when Earth perihelion occurred during northern summer solstice, with associated drier conditions in the Southern Hemisphere (Merlis et al., 2012). Conversely, maxima of precession, supposed to be favourable for wetter conditions in the Southern Hemisphere, correspond to periods with lower terrigenous inputs, especially between 44 +/- 1.6 and 39 +/- 0.9 ka BP (subpalynnozone e2) and between 25 +/- 0.5 and 16 +/- 0.2 ka BP (subpalynnozones c2 and c1; Figure 7).
5.1.3. The atypical signature of MIS 2

In the tropics, during MIS 2, the latitudinal contraction of the TR resulted in colder conditions on the continent (Powers et al., 2005; Tierney et al., 2011; Loomis et al., 2012) with the establishment of open landscape (Anhuf et al., 2006), and cold surface waters (deMenocal et al., 2000; Weldeab et al., 2005; Shakun and Carlson, 2010). This widely observed pattern is in agreement with the low terrigenous signal recorded on core KZAI-01 (Figure 7) that suggests reduced weathering conditions combined with lower terrestrial erosion at that time. Paleo-precipitation reconstructions (Bonnefille and Chalié, 2000) also suggest generally low values in the Congo Basin, however characterized by a complex pattern oscillating between slightly wetter and drier conditions. In our dinocyst record, low occurrences of *T. applanatum*, *Selenopemphix quanta* (Figure 5) and cysts of *Pentapharsodinium dalei* (Appendix) are consistent with the tropical glacial period, mainly influenced by upwelling dynamics under dry climate.

However, between 25 +/- 0.5 and 17 +/- 0.25 ka BP (sub-palynozones c2 and c3; Figure 7), low relative abundances of *Echinidinium* spp. as well as high percentages of *L. machaerophorum* (up to 50 %) would suggest strengthened river discharges and thus wetter conditions consistent with the general pattern of Austral moisture during maximal values of the precession index. Even if an influence of lower sea level on the neritic ecology of both *Echinidinium* spp. and *L. Machaerophorum* during this time cannot be ruled out entirely, this pattern can possibly be explained by the cross-equatorial location of the Congo Basin therefore benefiting from Southern Hemisphere wetter configurations, the Northern Congo Basin corresponding to a third of the whole surface. However, northern tributary rivers contribute half the total discharge (Bultot, 1971; Lempicka, 1971) and it is important to note the general greater influence of northern rivers in comparison with austral ones within the Congo Basin. Terrigenous inputs to the ocean will then remain more important when the
northern basin will be fed by strengthened precipitations in a boreal context of precession minima.

Another atypical dinocyst signature of MIS 2 is based on the occurrence of thermophile species (S. mirabilis, S. membranaceus, S. bentorii and T. vancampoae), currently found in equatorial warm waters (Figure 6), which mainly occurred between 21 +/- 0.4 and 17 +/- 0.25 ka BP, after a gradual increase noted from the beginning of the LGM (Figures 4 and 5). The southward shift of the TR and the equatorial warm waters until 2°S (Arbuszewsky et al., 2013) may have brought heat and moisture to the study area while other parts of the Equatorial Atlantic remained colder and drier (Stager et al., 2011). Furthermore, the world atlas of modern dinocysts (Zonneveld et al., 2013) also describes these thermophile species as being oligotrophic to mesotrophic. Their occurrences during MIS 2 could thus suggest such conditions in the study area, consistently with recorded lower terrigenous inputs during this period (Figures 3 and 7), while high percentages of heterotrophic taxa (up to 40 % of dinocyst assemblages during MIS 2, especially coastal warm heterotrophic taxa) would rather evidence mesotrophic conditions during this interval, consistent with present-day trophic conditions characterizing coastal equatorial waters.

5.1.4 Eastern and Western African monsoons: complex interferences in the Congo Basin

The large area of the Congo Basin raises the question of the complex interferences between Western and Eastern African monsoon systems. The atmosphere above the catchment area is indeed divided by the Congo Air Boundary (CAB) convergence zone (Tierney et al., 2011), delineating the border between the western and eastern African monsoons. Past oscillations of these different monsoon clusters have been simulated (Caley et al., 2011; Figure 7) from paleo-river discharges of the Niger (Western African monsoon) and of the Nile (Eastern African monsoon), and have also been reconstructed through Ba/Ca ratios of Globigerinoides...
ruber (MD32-2707 core; Figures 1 and 7; Weldeab et al., 2007). As mentioned above, dinocyst river-plume assemblages of KZAI-01 core strongly develop in response to boreal summer river discharges linked with precession minima (Figure 7), suggesting that the Western African monsoon can be considered as the main forcing for northern summer rainfalls in the Congo Basin. This common pattern is particularly well highlighted during the Last Deglaciation, when relative abundances of river-plume taxa increase in parallel with terrigenous signals shortly after the increase of the Western African monsoon, around 16 +/- 0.2 ka BP (Figure 7). Furthermore, the maximum of the West African monsoon activity between 8 and 6 ka BP (Figure 7) also corresponds with the highest occurrences of *O. aguinawense*, evidencing a great relationship between the Western African monsoonal forcing and the establishment of near equatorial conditions during this period (cf. Figure 6; Marret and Kim, 2009).

However, the relationship described above between Western African monsoon signal and dinocyst assemblages is less clear during the recorded wetter interval ranging from 39 +/- 0.9 to 27.5 +/- 0.7 ka BP (Figure 7). Our dinocyst data would indeed suggest a better correlation with the maximum of the Eastern African monsoon signal (Figure 7) while the Western one remained weakened. This pattern is well correlated with estimates of paleoprecipitation inferred from pollen extracted from Burundi mounts (Bonnefille and Chalié, 2000), which display higher precipitations during this interval, also in accordance with strengthened Eastern African monsoons (Figure 7).

**5.2. Sub-orbital variations over the last 20 ky**

**5.2.1. The Last Deglaciation**

The tropical response of Heinrich Stadial 1 (HS1)

Between 18 +/- 0.3 and 15.5 +/- 0.4 ka BP, relative abundances of thermophile and river-
plume species dropped sharply while *O. centrocarpum* reached very high percentages (up to 50%) at that time (sub-palynozone c1; Figure 8). Present-day distribution of *O. centrocarpum* in the South Atlantic Ocean shows a strong relationship with northward cold currents (including the BC) (Figure 6; Zonneveld et al., 2013), especially during the austral winter when cold currents reach the equatorial area. High percentages of *O. centrocarpum* may thus suggest a greater influence of the BC advection in our study area between 18 and 15.5 ka BP. The increase in *O. centrocarpum* percentages is also noticeable within the Benguela Upwelling system (GeoB1023 core; Figures 1 and 8; Shi et al., 1998), also highlighting the BC activity at a larger regional-scale. Combined with occurrences of *T. applanatum* at that time (Figure 8), which today is typical of the modern Benguela Upwelling System along the Angolan margin (Holzwarth et al., 2000; Zonneveld et al., 2013), both species would thus indicate a cold and dry climate, consistent with previous studies that described a strong drought on the African continent (Stager et al., 2002, 2011; Bouimetarhan et al., 2012; Weldeab, 2012). More precisely, low precipitation (Bonnefille and Chalié, 2000; Schefuß et al., 2005; Figure 7) were recorded as well as a continental and marine cooling ranging between 1 and 2°C below mean LGM values (Müller et al., 1998; Powers et al., 2005; Weldeab et al., 2005; Weldeab et al., 2007; Loomis et al., 2012).

This cool and dry event appears synchronous with a massive advection of freshwater that occurred in the North Atlantic during Heinrich Stadial (HS) 1. The tropical response of HS 1 would then consist of a southward shift of the TR (Arbuszewski et al., 2013; McGee et al., 2014), involving a contraction of the latitudinal belts (Stager et al., 2011) and weakened monsoons during this period. It is interesting to note that while dinocysts suggest a marked sea-surface cooling, isotopic signals from nearby core GeoB6518-1 (Schefuß et al., 2005; Figure 8) suggest a steady increase in tropical moisture during HS1. This implies a fundamental divergence between marine and continental compartments across the Last
Deglaciation.

The equatorial signal of increasing deglacial warming at 15.5 ka BP

Around 15.5 - 15 ka BP, the equatorial deglacial transition occurred in parallel with a global warming (Weldeab et al., 2005; Weijers et al., 2007; Leduc et al., 2010), linked with the Northern Hemisphere July insolation increase. This resulted in a northward shift of the TR (Arbuszewski et al., 2013; McGee et al., 2014) and thus strengthened monsoon.

Our dinocyst data also show a significant increase in percentages of *Brigantedinium* spp. and *Echinidinium* spp. at around 15.5 +/- 0.4 ka BP (limit between palynozones B and C; Figure 8). Their modern distributions in the tropics are related to both nutrient-enriched waters and, more specifically for *Echinidinium* spp., to high river-discharges (Zonneveld et al., 2013). This is consistent with the strong increase of terrigenous inputs observed at that time in the same core (Bayon et al., 2012; Figure 8). The equatorial species *O. aguinawense* also appeared shortly at around 15.5 ka BP (Figure 8), suggesting near equatorial conditions during this short event. Relative abundances of *L. machaerophorum* also increased again at 15.5 ka BP but remained low in comparison with glacial ones, suggesting a specific switch in fluvial-sensitive dinocyst tracers between *L. machaerophorum* (glacial) and *Echinidinium* spp. (across and after the Last Deglaciation).

Among the thermophile species, *Selenopemphix nephroides* and especially *Stelladinium reidii* are the clearest signals of the post 15.5 ka BP deglacial warming (Figure 8). Both species are also considered good tracers for regimes of high trophic conditions (Zonneveld et al., 2013), in agreement with the recorded surface nutrient enrichment previously suggested during this period (cf. *Brigantedinium* spp. and *Echinidinium* spp.). Extremely low abundances of *O. centrocarpum* at that time could be interpreted as minor or non-existent influence of the BC in the study area (Figure 8), while significant abundances of this species recorded in GeoB1023
core (cf. Figure 1; Shi et al., 1998) would conversely suggest a strengthening of this cold
current. This may be the consequence of a 3° southward latitudinal shift of the ABF between
15 and 7 ka BP (Figure 8), disconnecting the study area from the influence of the Benguela
Upwelling system.

The tropical response of the Younger Dryas (YD)

Significant dinocyst changes occurred between around 13 +/- 0.2 and 11.5 +/- 0.35 ka BP in
both dinocyst and geochemical records (Figure 8). The significant drop of XRF Ti/Ca ratio
evidences a reduction of terrigenous input, while percentages of thermophile species S.
mirabilis, S. nephroides and S. reidii strongly decrease, suggesting a significant cooling of
surface waters in the study area. The recorded cooling would be in agreement with the
Younger Dryas timing (Lowe and Hoek, 2001) (Figure 8). However, high abundances of
Echinidinium spp. and Brigantedinium spp. during this interval suggest that nutrient-enriched
river discharges still occurred at that time (Figure 8). Wetter conditions could be explained by
a suitable location of the TR above the Congo Basin, between Holocene and LGM mean
locations (Arbuszewski et al., 2013; McGee et al., 2014). Furthermore, the weakening of the
deglacial sea-level rise during this period (Grant et al., 2012) and therefore the decrease of
associated continental shelf reworking (Marret et al., 2008) could explain the observed drop
in terrigenous inputs and the long-term decreasing trend of Echinidinium spp. (Figure 8). The
absence of T. applanatum during the tropical response of the YD would also suggest the
absence of upwelling cells in the study area (Figure 7). Nevertheless, high abundance of S.
quanta and S. membranaceus (Figures 5 and 8), generally abundant in the vicinity of seasonal
upwelling cells (Marret and Zonneveld, 2003), may suggest the development of seasonal
coastal upwelling close to the study area.
5.2.2 The Holocene

Aknowledging the weak chrono-stratigraphic constraint of the Holocene (cf. Figure 2), some major subdivisions of the Holocene (Early-, Mid-, and Late-Holocene) can be discussed nevertheless.

The Early Holocene and the African Humid Period

Across the Holocene, the African Humid Period (AHP) is a significantly warmer and wetter period that occurred between around 14.5 and 5 ka BP (deMenocal et al., 2000; Shanahan et al., 2015). At that time, the TR was characterized by a wider latitudinal extension up to several degrees poleward (Stager et al., 2011; Arbuszewski et al., 2013; McGee et al., 2014).

Previous dinocyst studies showed that the AHP was characterized by the gradual bloom of thermophile (S. mirabilis) and low-salinity (O. aguinawense) species, induced by strengthened river discharges from the beginning of the Holocene (Dupont and Behling, 2006; Kim et al., 2010; Marret et al., 2013).

Similar to these studies, our record also evidences a strengthening of nutrient-enriched river discharges from the onset of the Last Deglaciation (Figure 8; cf. subchapter 5.2.1). However significant occurrences of O. aguinawense between around 11 +/- 0.35 and 2 +/- 0.2 ka BP (Figure 8) delimit the effective wettest period, also characterized by the highest abundances of both mesotrophic and eutrophic thermophile species (Figure 8). High SST recorded at the beginning of the Holocene are also well correlated with alkenone SST reconstructions from core GeoB6518 (Schefuß et al., 2005) synchronously with the Early Holocene timing (Figure 8). It is interesting to note that, during this Holocene climatic optimum, our dinocyst data show a sharp drop of Echinidinium spp. relative abundances between 8 and 7 ka BP, synchronously with a drop of thermophile species (Figure 8). This could suggest a thousand years-long cooler and drier event that occurred during the Early and Mid-Holocene transition
The timing of the AHP termination varies significantly between studies, i.e. around 2.5 ka BP (Kröpelin et al., 2008; Lézine et al., 2013; Shanahan et al., 2012; Lebamba et al., 2012), 4 ka BP (deMenocal et al., 2000; Hély et al., 2009; Tierney and deMenocal, 2013; Shanahan et al., 2015), or even earlier at around 5.3 ka BP (Lézine et al., 2005). Consequently, the duration of the AHP also varies between these, from a few centuries to a few thousand years according to the references mentioned above (Figure 8).

In our data, we observe two events characterised by abrupt cooling and drying conditions. The first decline occurred abruptly between 7 +/- 0.15 and 6 +/- 0.1 ka BP (transition between sub-palynozones b1 and b2), illustrated by the sharp drop of heterotrophic taxa percentages, especially Brigantedinium spp., S. reidii and S. nephroides (Figure 8), in parallel with high relative abundances of O. centrocarpum. This suggests an environmental change from eutrophic to less nutrient-rich surface waters, probably allowing the observed development of mesotrophic taxa, such as S. mirabilis (Figure 8). This decrease does not appear as a dry event, due to: i) the persistence of high Echinidinium spp. percentages, with however a long-term decreasing trend obvious since 15.5 +/- 0.4 ka BP (Figure 8), and ii) the persistence of O. aguinawense (today related to near-equatorial hydrological conditions; cf. Figure 6) which reached its highest relative abundances during this interval (sub-palynzone b1, Figure 8).

The second decrease occurred abruptly between 4 +/- 0.08 and 3.5 +/- 0.08 ka BP (transition between palynozones A and B; Figure 8), as displayed by a general drop of both heterotrophic and thermophile cyst percentages, while O. centrocarpum rapidly became the major dinocyst species (Figure 8). As we discussed above from crossed information related to total dinocyst concentrations and community indexes (dominance versus diversity; cf. Section 4.1 and...
Figure 3), the interval ranging from 4 +/- 0.08 to 2.5 +/- 0.08 ka BP (sub-palynozone a2; Figure 8) is probably characterized by massive advection of *O. centrocarpum* cysts. However, removing *O. centrocarpum* percentages from the abundance calculations of other taxa will not erase the observed shift discussed above for heterotrophic and thermophile dinocysts, clearly related to the 4 - 3.5 ka BP period.

**The Late Holocene**

Right after 3.5 +/- 0.08 ka BP the interval appears to be one of the coolest and driest periods recorded in core KZAI-01, as evidenced by the strong dominance of *O. centrocarpum*, and as also previously observed in GeoB1023 core (Figure 8; Shi et al., 1998). This could be the consequence of a strengthened BC activity, maybe also related to a 4° northward shift of the ABF, well recorded during the Mid- to Late Holocene (Figure 8, Jansen et al., 1996).

Finally, from 2.5 +/- 0.08 ka BP onward (subpalynozone a1), a recovery of *L. machaerophorum* and *Echinidinium* spp. percentages is observed in parallel with low occurrences of *O. aguinawense* (Figures 5 and 8), suggesting a slight re-increase of wetter conditions. However, despite the general tropical warming observed in several SST reconstructions over this period (Schefuß et al., 2005; Weldeab et al., 2005; Dyez et al., 2014), all thermophile cyst percentages remain null or very low (Figure 8). The recovery of wetter conditions may be explained by the optimum of the precession index around 3 ka BP (Figure 7), which implies the correspondence between austral summer and Earth perihelion and allows the establishment of wetter and warmer conditions in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Holocene, as recorded in core KZAI-01, thus can be divided into three major periods. The earliest interval (11 +/- 0.35 - 6.5 +/- 0.1 ka BP) is also the warmest and wettest period, followed, between 6.5 +/- 0.1 and 4 +/- 0.08 ka BP, by a less warm and humid period, characterized by the progressive recovery of the BC activity. Finally, after 4 ka BP, a major
long-term cooling and drying period is gradually pondered by a progressive recovery of river discharges in the study area since 2.5 ka BP.

6. CONCLUSION

Analysis of dinocyst assemblages in core KZAI-01 has permitted an investigation of land-sea-atmosphere linkages off the Congo River mouth over the last 44 ky. Our dinocyst data evidence a great influence of nutrient-rich river discharges caused by latitudinal migrations of the tropical rainbelt, forced by different orbital configurations, and especially regarding the combination “precession minima - obliquity maxima”. Furthermore, while most of studies describe the LGM as a “cold and dry” period in the tropics, thermophile and river-plume dinocysts evidence here a pattern relatively similar to modern warm equatorial assemblages. The LGM appears to be a complex period characterized by a southward shift of the monsoonal belt and of warm surface waters, bringing heat and moisture. This illustrates a complex dynamics that warrant model simulations to explore the underlying mechanisms that occurred across this specific climate interval.

This high-resolution study has also permitted to discriminate major climate periods of the Last Deglaciation in good correspondence with Northern Hemisphere high latitude millennial-scale oscillations. We also discuss the timing of the equatorial response of the African Humid Period and the two-steps decrease in heat and moisture conditions in the study area. Further work will involve a regional-scale study including other dinocyst records to reconstruct sea-surface environments in relationship with latitudinal shifts in the tropical rainbelt along the Western African coast, as well as model-data inter-comparisons for different snapshots across the last glacial, deglacial and Holocene periods.
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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8. REFERENCES


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9. TABLE AND FIGURE CAPTIONS

9.1. Table caption

Table 1: $^{14}$C dates obtained on KZAI-01 core: seven dates were previously obtained on marine carbonate material and 10 on bulk organic matter (Bayon et al., 2012), and three new dates have been added in this study. Two dates have been rejected (190 and 372 cm) and displayed in italic, and dates acquired on bulk organic matter have not been considered for the age model establishment in this study (dates retained for the age model in bold in the Table).

9.2. Figure captions

Figure 1: Map showing locations of KZAI-01 core and other cores mentioned in the text: GeoB6518 (Schefuß et al., 2005; Bayon et al., 2012), GeoB1008 (Schneider et al., 1997), MD32-2707 (Weldeab et al., 2007), GeoB1023 (Shi et al., 1998), and GITANGA2 (Bonnefille and Chalié, 2000). The general pattern of present-day surface ocean currents of the adjacent Atlantic Ocean is extracted from Lass and Mohrholz (2008) and includes: the Guinea Current (GC), the northern (nSEC), equatorial (eSEC), central (cSEC), and southern (sSEC) South Equatorial Current, the Angola Current (AC), the Angola-Benguela Front (ABF), the Benguela Current (BC) and the Agulhas Current (AgC). Orange lines indicate warm currents and blue lines cold currents. Green zones correspond to upwelling zone (BUS : Benguela Upwelling System) and oceanic domes (AD : Angola Dome, ED : Equatorial Dome; Voituriez, 1981; Lass and Mohrholz, 2008). Black dashed lines display mean seasonal locations of the ITCZ during July and January (Collier and Hughes, 2011). Red 5°C-interval isolines correspond to annual mean SST (Hirahara et al., 2013). Vegetation cover (in % per surface unity) is extracted from Hansen et al. (2013) dataset.

Figure 2: Age model established through a linear regression between retained AMS $^{14}$C pointers (red squares; cf. Table 1). Blue squares correspond to $^{14}$C datations acquired on organic matter (Bayon et al., 2012), not taken into account for the age model. Green squares correspond to dates obtained by tuning KZAI-01 core with GeoB6518 core, on the basis on similar XRF Ti/Ca ratio trends. Grey band corresponds to the 2 $\sigma$ range error of calibrated dates, and purple lines correspond to sedimentation rates (cm/ky).

Figure 3: Comparison between total dinocyst concentrations (cysts / cm$^3$), non-heterotrophic cyst concentrations, as well as Lingulodinium machaerophorum and Operculodinium centrocarpum concentrations, both species being mainly responsible for total cyst concentrations in the study core. Same approach for heterotrophic taxa: comparison between total heterotrophic concentrations in parallel with Brigantedinium spp. and Echinidinium spp., both taxa being mainly responsible for total heterotrophic concentrations in the study core. Above mentioned species are also represented in cumulated percentages. To discuss relationships between primary productivity, dinocyst concentrations and terrigenous dilution, the XRF Ti/Ca ratio of core KZAI-01 is displayed in parallel with biogenic opal and total organic matter signals extracted from core GeoB1008 (Schneider et al., 1997). Also, specific diversity and dominance indexes enable discussing the potential advection of dinocysts in the study. Red dashed lines correspond to major transitions in total dinocyst concentrations allowing to define 5 major palynozones (A-B-C-D-E).
Figure 4: Selection of major (>2%) non-heterotrophic dinocyst species represented in percentages, in parallel with total non-heterotrophic cyst concentrations (cysts/cm³). Some species have been grouped: Spiniferites ramosus also includes Spiniferites bulloides, and Nematosphaeropsis labyrinthus also includes Nematosphaeropsis lemniscata. Palynozones (A to E) have been established according to major variations in absolute cyst concentrations (cf. Figure 3), and minor subdivisions (Ax-Ex) have been delimited thanks to whole dinocyst assemblages in percentages (cf. Figures 4 and 5). Species are here classified according to observed temporal successions underlined by black arrows.

Figure 5: Selection of major (>2%) heterotrophic dinocyst species represented in percentages, in parallel with total heterotrophic cyst concentrations (cysts/cm³). Echinidinium spp. includes E. aculeatum, E. delicatum, E. granulatum and E. transparantum. Lingulodinium machaerophorum is displayed with Echinidinium spp. regarding their river-plume affinity. Palynozones (A to E) have been established according to major variations in absolute cyst concentrations (cf. Figure 3), and minor subdivisions (Ax-Ex) have been delimited thanks to whole dinocyst assemblages in percentages (cf. Figures 4 and 5). Species are here classified according to observed temporal successions underlined by black arrows.

Figure 6: Present-day distribution of selected dinocyst taxa among major ones discussed in the paper. Percentages from 277 sites are extracted from the modern dinocyst atlas (Marret et al., 2008; Zonneveld et al., 2013).

Figure 7: Comparison between total heterotrophic cyst abundances and Trinovantedinium applanatum percentages, both accounting for upwelling activity (Marret and Zonneveld, 2003). River-plume taxa: Echinidinium spp. and Lingulodinium machaerophorum, as well as coenobia of freshwater microalgae Pediastrum and terrigenous signals (XRF Ti/Ca ratio, quantitative measurements of major elements Al/K and Al/Si; Bayon et al., 2012), allow discussing Congo River discharges. Relationships between river discharges and paleomonsoons are displayed throughout: i) pollen-inferred rainfall anomalies in Burundi mounts (Bonnefille and Chalié, 2000: the threshold with positive anomalies in green and negative anomalies in orange is calculated from mean glacial values) in parallel with δD on Alkane C_{29} (core GeoB6518; Schefuß) displayed in red, ii) regional-scale monsoon reconstructions (Western and Eastern African Monsoons; Caley et al., 2011: maximal monsoon regimes are underlined in green), iii) Globigerinoides ruber Ba/Ca ratio obtained from core MD32-2707 (Weldeab et al., 2007). Orbital parameters such as the Obliquity and the Precession (Berger and Loutre, 1991) are also displayed with precession minima and obliquity maxima highlighted in green. Green bands correspond to major orbital-scale moisture conditions discussed in the paper.

Figure 8: Temporal focus on the last 20 ky. Sea-surface temperature changes are discussed with major dinocyst species classified according to their trophic affinity: Spiniferites mirabilis, Spiniferites membranaceus, Selenopemphix nephroides and Stelladinium reidii. Sea-surface salinity changes are discussed with Echinidinium spp., Operculodinium aguinawense, Lingulodinium machaerophorum, in addition with stable isotopic signals from core GeoB6518-1 (Schefuß et al., 2005). Upwelling activity and Benguela Current activity are respectively discussed in KZAI-01 core with Trinovantedinium applanatum and Operculodinium centrocarpum percentages, together with latitudinal location of the Angola-Benguela Front (Jansen et al., 1996) and O. Centrocarpum relative abundances acquired in the Benguela Upwelling System on GeoB1023 core (Shi et al., 1998). Higher primary
productivity conditions in the study area are indirectly discussed with *Brigantedinium* spp. percentages. XRF Ti/Ca ratio obtained on KZAI-01 core allows discussing past terrigenous supplies. NGRIP $\delta^{18}$O (GICC05 timescale; Svensson et al., 2008) is also displayed in parallel with the Last Deglaciation - Holocene (Walker et al., 2012) subdivisions: Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), Heinrich Stadial 1 (HS1), Bolling-Allerød (B/A), Younger Dryas (YD), Early Holocene (EH), Mid-Holocene (MH), and Late Holocene (LH). Blue bands correspond to cold and dry events recorded with dinocyst assemblages. African Humid Period (AHP) terminations are also depicted according to the literature (orange bars): 1° (Kröpelin et al., 2008), 2° (Shanahan et al., 2015), 3° (Hély et al., 2009), 4° (Lézine et al., 2005), 5° (Lebamba et al., 2012), 6° (Lézine et al., 2013), 7° (Tierney and deMenocal, 2013), 8° (Shanahan et al., 2012), 9° (deMenocal et al., 2000). Palynozones subdivisions are also highlighted (aX, bX; cf. Figures 4 and 5).
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Table 1
Figure 1
Figure 3
Figure 4

Sea-surface salinities sensitive species

Thermophile species
Figure 5

This figure illustrates the distribution of various heterotrophic taxa over time, with different taxa represented by specific colors and patterns. The x-axis represents time in years before present (ybp), while the y-axis shows the percentage distribution of various taxa. The taxa include Selenopemphix, Trinovantidinium, Polyplkros, and others. The graph also includes sections labeled 'Upwelling taxa,' 'Warm coastal heterotrophic taxa,' and 'Equatorial thermophile taxa,' indicating different environmental conditions or phases. The polyzones A through E are marked on the right side of the graph, possibly indicating distinct ecological zones or times.
Figure 6